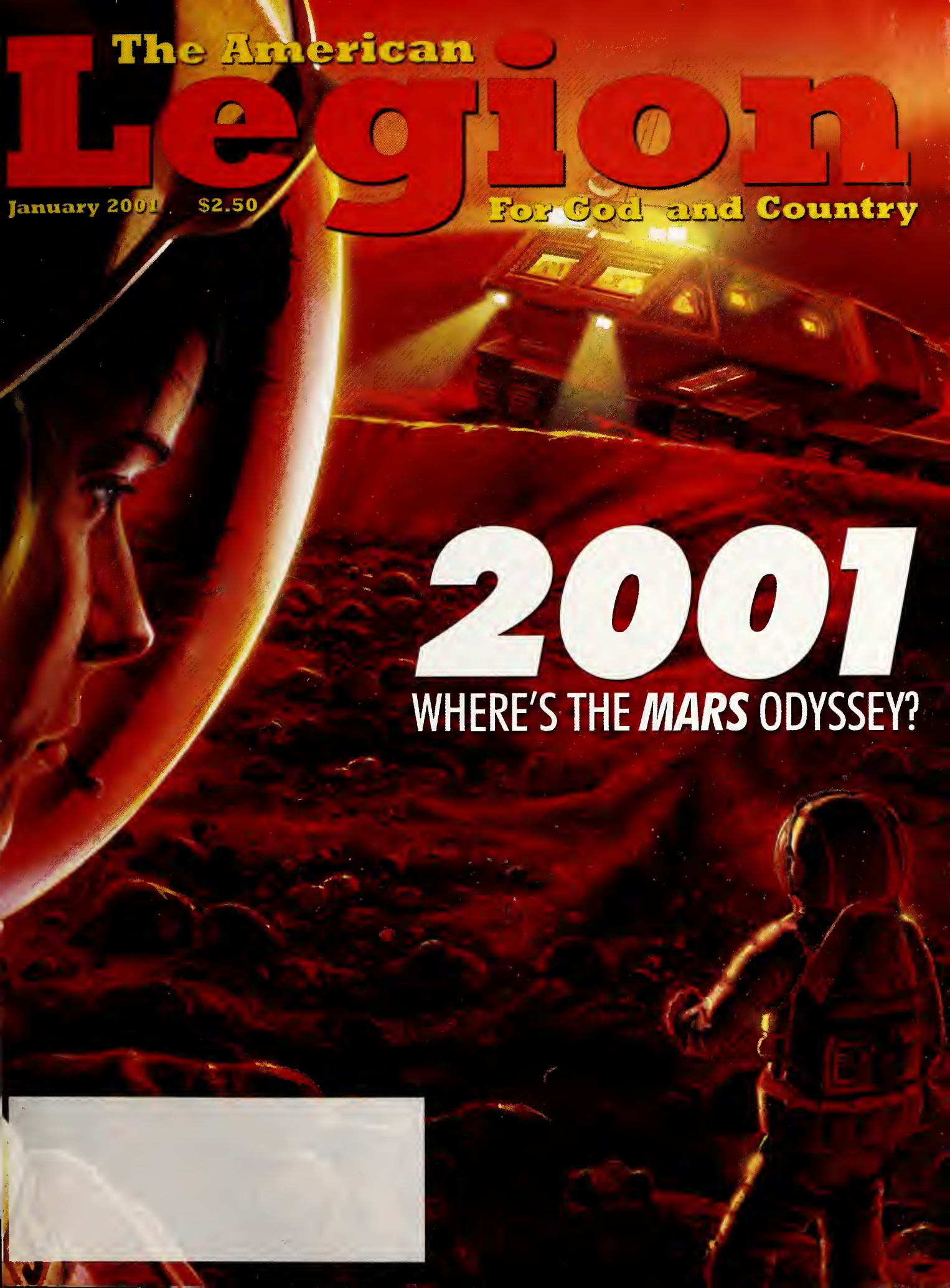




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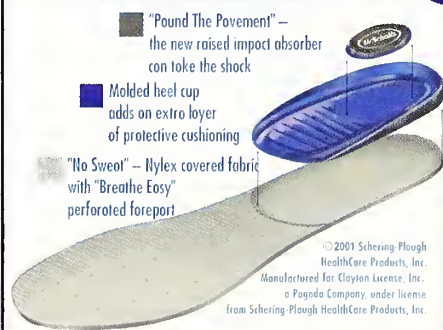
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For God and Country

Vol. 150, No. 1

The Magazine for a Strong America

JANUARY 2001

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COVER Astronauts are depicted exploring Mars during a future manned mission to Earth's neighboring planet. Illustration by Paul DiMare

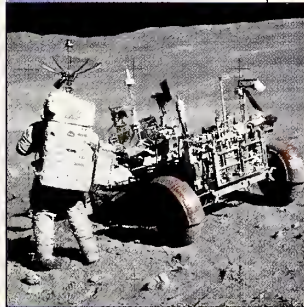
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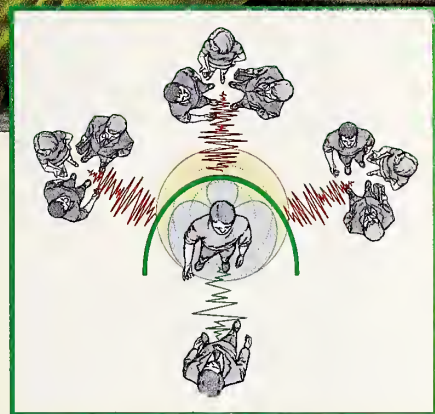
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Resolutions on track

I read with interest the article "82nd National Convention Adopts 165 Resolutions" (November). I take my hat off to the various chairmen and others involved in drafting these resolutions. Please keep up the good work.

— Robert S. Howe, Northridge, Calif.



Courtesy Gregory J. Sanders

Flag designer thanks Legion

I am a member of American Legion Post 211 and designer of the National Veterans Flag now up before Congress. There has been some controversy over the design because of the inclusion of the U.S. Merchant Marine emblem.

Imagine my excitement as I browsed through the Legion Web site and noticed eligibility of membership for the USMM has been approved. I knew The American Legion would never let the country down.

— Gregory J. Sanders, Lorain, Ohio

Editor's Note: U.S. Merchant Marines who served between Dec. 7, 1941, and Aug. 15, 1945, may be eligible for American Legion membership.

'Ghosts' awaken memories

The article "Ghosts Of The Past" was great (November). I remember hearing as a kid in the 1930s how we would have to fight Japan. I remember pictures of draftees training with broomsticks, stove pipes simulating mortars, rag-covered airplanes and signs on cars that said "Tank."

We were lucky to have a manufacturing base that produced the equipment we needed before we got into World War II. We don't have that anymore. Perhaps Gaffney's article will awaken someone somewhere.

— Fred L. Alberts, San Francisco

VA should target alcohol

I was happy to read that VA now has the authority to sue tobacco companies for tobacco-related treatment cost recovery

(“House Reverses On VA Tobacco Bill,” October). Next, VA should go after the alcohol industry to recover treatment costs for alcohol-related illnesses. Such litigation should be as severe for the alcohol industry as it has been for the tobacco industry.

The alcohol industry's advertisements reach Americans of all ages, yet the damage alcohol causes is virtually incalculable. Vehicle accidents and physical impairments increase each year. Many convicted drunk drivers receive repeated token punishments and are allowed to repeat their offenses.

— Lloyd Strickland, Alexandria, Va.

Vet status is elusive

Regarding Christopher Jones' letter about not being considered a veteran despite service in the Guard and overseas (Vetvoice, November), I too have many years of service in the Reserve — 14 years Navy and two and a half Air Force. But because I've never been deployed or activated for more than 90 days, I've never gotten a DD 214, the magic piece of paper that opens the door to veterans benefits in Massachusetts.

People I worked with attended boot camp and went right into the Reserves. They have veteran status for four years of reserve duty, yet many Guard and Reserve personnel retire without having been deemed veterans despite 20 years of service to their country.

— Warren Smith, Weymouth, Mass.

WE WANT YOUR OPINIONS

The American Legion Magazine welcomes letters concerning articles that appear in the publication. Letter writers are also encouraged to submit photographs of themselves for possible publication with their letters. Be sure to include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters are subject to editing. Send your opinions to:

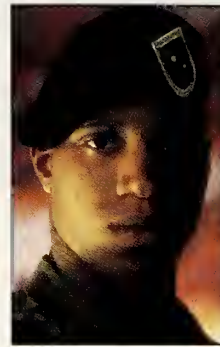
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Rangers lose distinction

The Army's decision to issue a black beret as standard-issue headgear concerns me. I served with the Rangers from 1981 to 1984. The beret, as part of our



uniform, distinguished us as elite soldiers. For many of us, earning the beret was one of our highest achievements in life.

The Army wants to take this beret and give it to the

rest of the soldiers to increase self-esteem and build morale. This is reprehensible. By taking a symbol of sacrifice and cheapening it, the Army is betraying those who currently wear the beret and those who have worn it in the past.

— Eric W. Foltz, Lake Forest, Calif.

Athletes disrespect flag

The American Legion's efforts to preserve our flag make me proud of my membership. That's why I want to point out an incident of disrespect to the U.S. Flag and our national anthem during a medal ceremony at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.

Four American track athletes won a medley race and were awarded Gold medals. During the awards ceremony, these athletes showed outrageous disrespect for our flag and national anthem.

Their horrible behavior resulted in negative comments from the media. I hope The American Legion, in its continuing quest to protect our flag, will alert our members to this.

I am a Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War. I love my flag and my country, and I believe it is my duty to take action when anyone insults it.

— Raymond Lynch, Cranford, N.J.

Correction

Editor's Note: In the article "Ghosts Of The Past" (November), German Foreign Minister Joachim Von Ribbentrop is standing to the left of British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, facing the camera. We apologize for the error.

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Decline of Military Might Hits Home

No matter how long I live, I'll never get used to the sight of flag-draped coffins returning America's sons and daughters to the country they died defending. I've seen that awful sight too many times in my life. And I saw it again Oct. 20, as the first victims of the terrorist attack on the destroyer USS *Cole* were brought home. In all, 17 sailors were killed and 39 injured in a massive bombing that nearly sank one of America's most modern warships.

Perpetrated just off the coast of Yemen, this act of cowardice must not go unpunished.

But before the president metes out that punishment, we should ask some hard questions – of our leaders and ourselves.

First, why was the *Cole* even visiting the Yemeni port of Aden? Until very recently, Yemen was considered a terrorist state and was officially off-limits to American personnel. In fact, one of the prime suspects in the *Cole* bombing – Saudi-born terrorist Osama bin Laden, the man who murdered 263 people and maimed another 5,000 in a pair of 1998 attacks on U.S. embassies in Africa – runs training camps in Yemen.

He has close ties with the country's tribal leaders. And incidentally, his father was born in Yemen.

The Senate panel unearthed two possible answers to this first question, a question that will haunt the victims' families forever.

Simply put, the Navy doesn't have enough refueling ships to keep our fleet

steaming anymore. As a result, we have to send our ships into foreign ports. But it wasn't always this way. According to retired Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni, who testified at a recent Senate hearing, just a decade ago every U.S. ship in the region refueled at sea. That's because we had 32 oilers in 1990; today, we have just 21.

Future Prevention. A second question that needs to be answered is how we prevent this from happening again. For starters, Congress should make it clear to the White House that our men and women in uniform are not trained and deployed to act as diplomatic guinea pigs.

Apparently, the Yemeni government knew about the *Cole*'s port visit weeks in advance, giving terrorist spies an opportunity to plan and hatch their brutal attack. And shockingly, Zinni admitted that the *Cole*'s port security was left to the Yemenis.

We should begin to rebuild our fleet of oilers. This would give American ships and their captains much-needed protection and peace of mind.

And of course, we must punish those who are responsible. The punishment must be directed at the countries that harbored the suicide bombers, the organizations that sponsored them and the individuals who bankrolled them. And the punishment should be severe. That's the only way future terrorists will be deterred from imitating this attack.

We should start with the Yemeni government and demand that those who leaked information about

the *Cole* be handed over. A sustained, systematic attack on the state sponsors of terrorism should follow.

The targets are plentiful – terrorist clans that operate in Yemen's lawless deserts, terrorist universities in Iran and Afghanistan, training camps in Syria and



National Commander Ray G. Smith

Lebanon, the intelligence headquarters in Baghdad and safe houses in Sudan. Until we summon the will to destroy these targets, we will not make any real gains in the war on terror.

Where's the Outrage? Finally, we must ask a question of ourselves, because our leaders aren't alone in their questionable behavior throughout the *Cole* crisis: Where's the outrage? Americans offer little more than a shrug as an unprovoked attack on America claims 17 lives.

The country's ambivalence was echoed at the State Department, which blocked the Voice of America from condemning the attack in an editorial because "The 17 or so dead sailors do not compare to the 100-plus Palestinians who have died in recent weeks."

Days later, State Department officials belatedly lifted their objections and admitted their initial memo was wrong.

That's not all that's wrong. It's wrong when American service members are treated like diplomatic chess pieces. It's wrong when they don't have the equipment they need to do their duty. And something's very wrong when Americans don't care.

Let's hope all of us can learn from this tragedy and make sure those 17 heroes didn't die in vain.



The USS *Cole*, with a crater marring its hull, gets a tow to deeper water for loading on a salvage ship.

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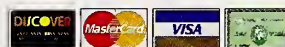
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An F-8E Crusader, used extensively during the Vietnam War, is caught in a tangling web of barricade arrestments. The leading edge of the tail fin sustained severe damage, a common sight for emergency landings.

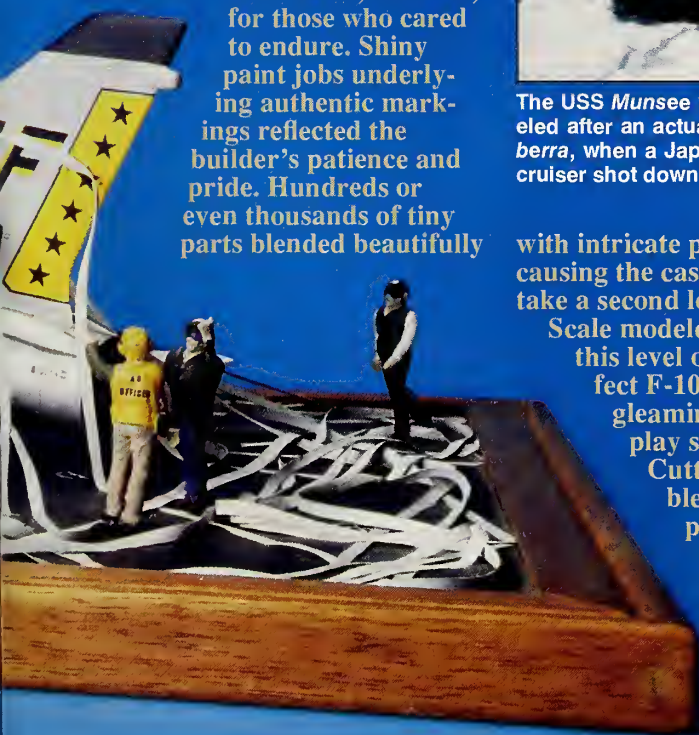
Top: A Korean War-era M-24 75mm light tank seems ready for battle.



By Ron Hyink
Managing Editor

ANYONE WHO has ever built a model airplane can remember the first product as being far from perfect. Most likely the paint ran in sags and globs, glue gushed from between the seams and indelible fingerprints outnumbered the wrinkled decals.

Perseverance lent itself to refined skills, however, for those who cared to endure. Shiny paint jobs underlying authentic markings reflected the builder's patience and pride. Hundreds or even thousands of tiny parts blended beautifully



The USS *Munsee* was used as a tugboat during World War II. The diorama was modeled after an actual event: The *Munsee* was towing a disabled cruiser, the USS *Canberra*, when a Japanese *Frances* bomber attacked the two ships. Though listing, the cruiser shot down the *Frances*.

with intricate paint schemes, causing the casual observer to take a second look.

Scale modelers who achieved this level of skill crafted perfect F-100 Super Sabres gleaming atop their display stands. Flawless Cutty Sark's with bleach-white sails proudly cruised imaginary seas.

Yet despite the level of perfection, something was not quite right — a key ingredient was

missing. Taking their perfection to a higher plane, so to speak, advanced modelers have breathed new life into their sculptures by building in that key ingredient: realism. Simply put, yet difficult to achieve, realism in an imperfect world requires imperfection.

"Simply put, yet difficult to achieve, realism in an imperfect world requires imperfection."



U.S. light infantrymen patrol the streets of liberated Kuwait City. Note the street signs in both English and Arabic.

Real B-17s revealed the telltale signs of frequent bombing missions. Paint chipped away from the leading edges of wings and propellers. Exhaust fumes and occasional oil leaks from powerful engines darkened the broad wings.

Real battleships cruising the high seas for untold weeks exhibited hints of the relentless attacks of rust. Mud and grime clogged the treads of real Sherman tanks as they plowed through the countryside. These are the effects scale modelers spend months or even years to achieve.

But persistent craftsmanship has gone beyond the model itself to achieve realism. These "imperfect" models depicted in a realistic setting, called dioramas, demand more than a second look. White-water waves crest in the wake of a carrier. A tank stands



Desert Storm soldiers ponder their next move with their M1-A1 tank.

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An old, worn T-6 becomes a scrap heap having outlived its usefulness.



Soldiers from a Sherman Firefly determine their next move. Note the German soldiers hiding inside the building.



"You stole 'em maggots! Now you're gonna eat 'em!" One of the last things a Marine recruit wants is to be caught stealing doughnuts by the gunny.

amid the graffiti-laden ruins and crumbled walls littering the streets of a war-torn town. A closer look reveals the shadows and highlights of the faces of miniature soldiers, and even their harried expressions seem to confess that war is hell. Rubble is strewn over here, and splinters of wood lay in jumbled piles over there.

The dioramas lure the observer into studying every detail, inch by inch. Many dioramas are scratch-built, either to achieve uniqueness or because no such parts exist from model manufacturers. The modelers are, in effect, artists. Embracing patience and determination, these artists have transcended those first imperfect attempts into perfection, only to

"Many dioramas are scratch-built, either to achieve uniqueness or because no such parts exist from model manufacturers."

return to imperfection – this time with stunning realism. □

Photos provided by Finescale Modeler Magazine. Finescale Modeler Magazine can be found on the internet at www.finescale.com.

Article design: Doug Rollison



Soldiers take a break while listening to a radio program in this takeoff of the popular movie. This diorama is loaded with detail, such as the beer cans and bottles, the ice chest and the bathtub.

**Americans
crave a
manned
mission to the
Red Planet.
What's taking
so long?**

By James Oberg

THIRTY YEARS AGO, the Apollo program made getting to the moon look so easy it seemed the entire solar system lay open for human exploration. The most popular science-fiction movie in 1969, when Apollo 11 landed, was "2001: A Space Odyssey," which portrayed moon bases and a manned mission to Jupiter. It all looked so inevitable.

Well, it's now 2001, so where's the odyssey? Where's the moon base, and where are the manned interplanetary spaceships?

**THE ROCKY ROAD TO
MARS**

It's easy to blame budget constraints and changes in national priorities. It's easy — and at least a bit justified — to blame leadership failures in the White House, at NASA and within American popular culture. But space experts also point to a long list of technical and scientific problems that still need to be solved. The Apollo program was able to shortcut or avoid these problems, but a far-ranging long-term human expedition beyond Earth orbit cannot.

Involved are technical issues such as propulsion and equipment reliability; medical issues, both physical and psychological; and political and diplomatic challenges, as exemplified

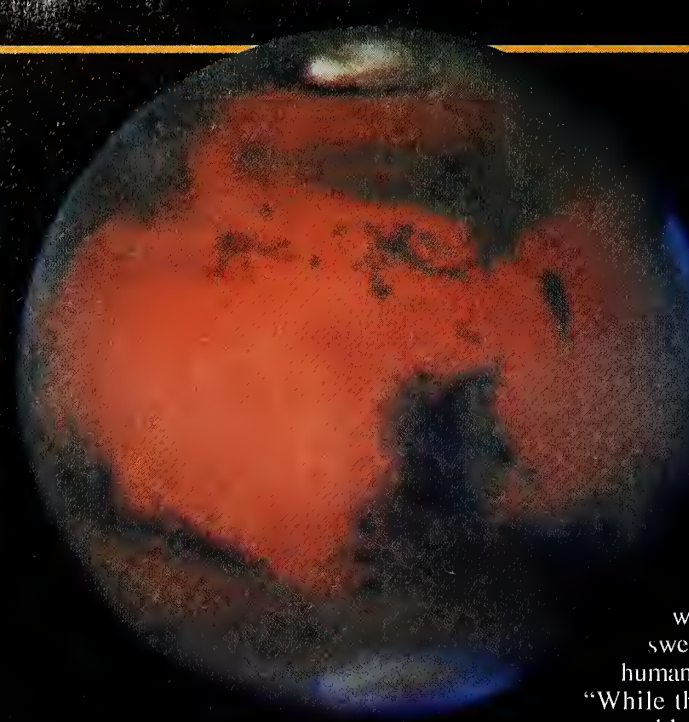
today by the agonizing struggle to construct a true international space station.

In NASA's continuing public-relations campaign to find justifications for the \$80 billion space station, research for deep-space exploration is one of the favorite re-

frains

In an artist's concept of the first human mission to Mars in the year 2019, astronauts record wind speed with an anemometer as a dust storm approaches the cratered area near the landing site. The Mars excursion vehicle in the background serves as crew quarters for the mission. Illustration courtesy NASA/Ren Wicks





The Hubble Space Telescope obtained one of the sharpest views of Mars ever taken from Earth in 1997, just before the Red Planet came within 60 million miles of Earth on one of its closest passes. Courtesy NASA/National Space Science Data Center

"We're going to have some more problems," NASA Administrator Dan Goldin warned last July. "(But) the space station will be built, and then we are going to figure out how people will live and work in space, and we are going to get to Mars."

Dr. Louis Friedman, president of the privately funded Planetary Society, agrees. "A recent national poll further confirmed public interest and support for human Mars exploration," he wrote recently. Although NASA has no official program to achieve this, he continued, "the public understands that this is where the space exploration program is heading. In fact, it is my belief, based on extensive interaction with the public, that people generally assume we are preparing to send humans to Mars."

NASA's "Strategic Objectives" report makes no secret of several goals that are directly applicable to flight to Mars. NASA, the report promises, will "conduct engineering and human health research on the International Space Station to enable exploration beyond Earth orbit." Furthermore, it promises to "invest in the development of high-leverage technologies to enable safe, effective and affordable human/robotic exploration" while defining "innovative human exploration missions."

Are We There Yet? For humans to get to Mars and back, surviving the jour-

ney is paramount. Even after 40 years of manned flights into space, some lasting a year or more, that fundamental question remains unsolved.

Space biologist Keith Cowing, who now runs the private "NASA Watch" Web site, is still cautious about the medical unknowns. "Despite nearly 100 shuttle missions, years of extended stays on Mir and trips to the moon, we still do not have all the answers when it comes to sending humans to Mars safely," he wrote.

"While the problems are not insurmountable, they will have to be thoroughly addressed by both doctors and engineers before humans can travel to, and work safely upon, Mars."

According to NASA astronaut John Grunsfeld, Mars crew members would need to be in "the best shape of their lives" upon arrival. But with what we know now, humans arriving on Mars would be in the same bad condition as humans returning to Earth from Mir: weak, disoriented, and fatigued both physically and mentally. Not having a Mars crew in tip-top condition would place landing activities and any post-landing surface activities at risk.

On long flights, astronauts experience bone loss, which, while similar in some ways to osteoporosis observed on Earth, doesn't respond to the same drugs that help earthside sufferers. There's also a marked decrease in muscle mass, including cardiac muscle, although this is more or less reversed after returning to Earth. And cosmic rays in deep space can gradually erode the brain's neurons and the optic nerves in an astronaut's eyes, perhaps accumulating detectable damage.

A Three-Year Tour. Of major concern to experts is the distance and the time involved in getting to Mars. Spacecraft reach the moon in three days but would need

eight to 10 months to reach Mars. Astronauts must then wait more than a year before the planets line up properly for an equally lengthy return leg. Total time in space: more than three years.

One solution still under consideration is creating pseudo-gravity during coasting phases by swinging the spacecraft at one end of a mile-long tether, with a rocket stage at the other end. If drifting for years in zero-gravity is too dangerous for health, the only other solution is to get to Mars as fast as possible, with trip times measured in weeks rather than months.

That's where advanced propulsion comes in. NASA has devoted considerable time in the past 30 years to examining and testing designs for more efficient deep-space rockets. But it is still far from actually picking a design and building it.

One classic system with strong support is the "nuclear thermal rocket," which uses heat from a nuclear reactor to expand and expel hydrogen gas and thus propel the rocket. A space strategy study team in 1991 called it "the only prudent propulsion system for Mars transit." Now being designed at NASA's Glenn Research Center in Ohio, it is a smaller, more efficient version of the NERVA engines built and then scrapped during the Apollo program.

Another concept getting publicity is a variation of the classic ion drive. Here, the propellant is electrically charged "plasma" (atoms stripped of their electrons) that is expelled by magnetic forces generated by powerful electrical currents. The latest design adds the ability to "change gears" in the efficiency of the engine, depending on whether one needs higher thrust



The Mars Pathfinder mission's Sojourner Rover takes measurements near a two-toned rock on the Martian surface in July 1997. The nature of the rock's color difference is unknown. It might consist of wind-blown dust accumulated on the surface, since the rock leans into the prevailing wind, or it might be evidence of a break from a larger boulder as it was deposited in an ancient flood that scoured the area.

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"The Apollo suit was physically bearable only because of the moon's weak gravity. On Mars, the suit would have weighed twice as much and been impossible to wear for more than an hour or two at a time."

during initial climb from Earth orbit ("first gear") or greatest efficiency during interplanetary cruise (sort of an "overdrive" gear).

Physicist-turned-NASA astronaut Franklin Chang-Diaz is a champion of this concept. Test hardware for a prototype – called the VASIMIR, or Variable Specific Impulse Magneto-Plasma Rocket – has been built by NASA, and in-space tests of a small-scale engine could occur within a few years. A full-scale version would need a power plant – either a nuclear reactor or a giant solar battery array – large enough to serve a medium-size town.

Building Better Hardware. Another little-recognized Mars challenge is in building hardware that can function faultlessly for years in space and for months on the Martian surface with minimal maintenance and replacement parts. For space-shuttle flights, every day in space usually means weeks of ground service. On space stations, massive amounts of time – 50 percent to 80 percent or sometimes more – are devoted to in-flight maintenance and repair.

Even the famous Apollo lunar spacesuits from the 1960s were barely able to function for three days on the moon, the longest period on the surface. After 10 to 20 hours of use, exposure to abrasive lunar dust resulted in jammed joints, leaking air seals and sputtering electrical circuits. On Russian space stations, spacesuits are certified for 10 four-hour spacewalks before needing a massive overhaul that often requires a week of work by the cosmonauts.

Spacesuits used on Mars will face the worst of all these environments: abrasive dust and hundreds of day-long space walks per suit. Furthermore, the Apollo suit was physically bearable only because of the moon's weak grav-

ity. On Mars, the suit would have weighed twice as much and been impossible to wear for more than an hour or two at a time. NASA will need spacesuits that are lighter, more efficient, more durable and more serviceable than any it has ever built before.

Surface Conditions. The actual operating conditions on Mars must be measured far more precisely. For example, the effects of wind-blown Martian dust on hardware is of great concern. "Fine particles are blowing at speeds up to 200 mph," a NASA engineer told a conference in Colorado in 1998, "and that will cause electrostatic charging, but we don't know how much."

The dust will clog chemical recycling canisters, stick to windows and photovoltaic arrays, and abrade moving parts. Once inside the astronauts' habitat, it will cover everything, but nobody knows if the dust is toxic or even flammable.

Engineers can't design their equipment until they actually measure the dust. Plans to perform simple experiments using robot Mars landers have been cancelled in the wake of the 1999 unmanned Mars probe disasters – the Climate Orbiter, lost due to a mathematical error in navigation planning, and the Polar Lander, which failed to make contact with NASA as it approached the planet. It will probably be another decade before critical design information is available.

Another feature of the Martian environment must be tested in order to take advantage of it: local resources. Unlike the airless, bone-dry moon, Mars has a small atmosphere and accessible water.

Those materials could be processed into drinking water, breathing air and even fuel for rockets and ground vehicles. But prototypes of the hardware for such processes must be tested during robot missions to Mars, in actual conditions, before entrusting astronauts' lives to their reliability. Those plans, too, have been indefinitely shelved following the recent setbacks.

Best For Both Worlds. An interesting pattern emerges concerning the funda-

mental nature of the technologies for Mars exploration. Unlike the Apollo lunar missions, when hardware posed the most challenges – the rockets, the navigation, the crew-control systems, and even the rocks that were the missions' goals – the unifying theme for Mars missions is connected to life sciences.

This Martian theme ranges from the microscopic (nano-fossils that may signify past life on Mars and will be the prime objective for search); to the medical (human physical survival under flight conditions remains uncertain), to the social (the proper mix of crew skills and the proper crew organization for multi-year missions beyond the range of radio conversations remain unknown), to the political and diplomatic (the mustering of national perseverance and international cooperation needed for such a long-term project), to the interplanetary (protective quarantine standards are prudent), to the ecological (visionary hand-waving about "terraforming" the entire planet in a century or two). Only a few of these themes were at all significant during the lunar landings, but every one of them is critical to a successful human mission to Mars.

That may be the key that will unlock the door to a future government commitment to such a project. Such life-science-related themes are not merely critical to designing workable Mars missions; they are crucial to human civilization right here on Earth.

Advocates believe the technological lessons that a Mars mission will force us to learn could result in the same sort of industrial invigoration that the Apollo challenges fueled 30 years ago. If designed properly, this bold project could accelerate innovative research aimed at terrestrial problems.

Friedman looks even further ahead in his call for preparing for human interplanetary flights. "For both these great objectives – the search for life beyond Earth and the quest for humans to evolve into a multi-planet species – the action is at Mars. NASA may not need more money for Mars exploration, but humanity does. It is part of finding our place in the cosmos."



James Oberg is a retired engineer of the space shuttle program and a full-time writer and speaker on space issues.

Article design: Holly K. Brown

Background: Sunset on Mars. The blue color near the sun is caused by Martian dust in the atmosphere. The dust absorbs blue light, giving the sky its red color and scattering blue light into the area just around the sun. Courtesy NASA/National Space Science Data Center

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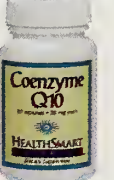
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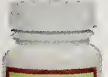
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MOON MARS

Apollo 16 astronaut explains how a lunar landing and a Mars mission would be worlds apart.

By James Oberg

Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Charles M. Duke, 65, was a NASA astronaut from 1966 to 1976. He served as lunar module pilot on the Apollo 16 moon landing in April 1972. Along with mission commander John Young, Duke made three day-long moon walks, which included driving a “moon jeep” for miles while hunting for rock samples.

A native of Charlotte, N.C., and a 1957 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Duke now lives in New Braunfels, Texas. In a recent telephone interview, Duke talked about space travel, past and future.

When asked about the toughest technical challenge in getting to the moon and back, Duke didn't hesitate to name transportation. “I think the biggest challenge was developing the Saturn V rocket, the heavy-lift vehicle,” he said. “Without that, we didn't have the capability to get enough weight up there to do a lunar mission. That had to work. That was the lynchpin.” The failure of Russia's own N-1 moon rocket doomed an effort to land cosmonauts on the moon.



Official portrait of astronaut Charlie Duke in his 1972 Apollo spacesuit.

Getting Along. Aside from the hardware, the human element would be critical in developing a Mars mission.

“Certainly, muscular degeneration and those kinds of things could not be tolerated,” Duke said. “And so we need a good exercise program. I think with a good exercise program that is carried out diligently every day, the body would probably be in pretty good shape when you got there.”

But there's more to an astronaut than just his or her body, and on long interplanetary missions – NASA expects a Mars round trip to last up to three years – mental



Duke collects lunar rock samples at the Descartes landing site during the Apollo 16 mission. He is standing at the rim of Plum Crater, which is 40 miles in diameter and 10 meters deep. NASA photo

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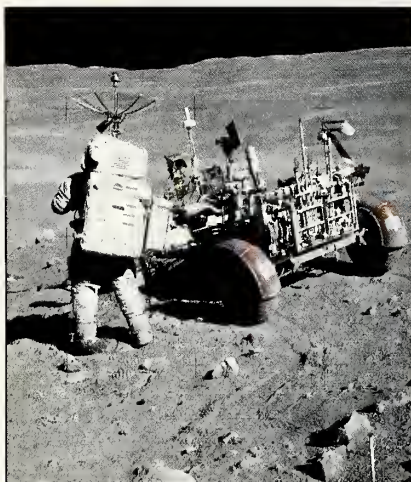
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and emotional health can be crucial to physical health. Duke shared his thoughts on whether he would have been able to spend a few years rather than just a few weeks in space with his shipmates, without getting into ferocious battles or bitter sulks.

"I think with your training you get to know one another, and you get to negotiate out your differences without getting upset and angry and contentious," he said. "John and Ken (Mattingly) and I had worked real close together for almost three years. We just knew each other's personalities. We just didn't punch any buttons that would set anybody off and we knew that we had to work together. The motivations to make a mission success overcame any kind of contention that you would have."

NASA astronauts' experience even on three-month Skylab missions from 1973 to 1974 was benign, but Duke pointed out that more recent experiences aboard the Mir space station uncovered some psychological concerns. "The Americans and the Russians got a little contentious," he said. "If this is going to be an international crew, there's a lot of cultural differences I think you need to overcome."

Recent success with the U.S.-Russian "International Space Station" may be setting the pattern for future big manned space projects, Duke suggested. "I think from a politically practical approach, that's the way it's going to be," he said. "It's going to wind up more expensive, but less expensive for all the participants, because you're just anteing up a little bit per nation." He had no illusions about the difficulties. "It's not going to be an easy task



Duke stands near the crew's "moon jeep" at the Apollo 16 lunar landing site April 22, 1972.

to organize an international mission to Mars, but politically that's probably the way it's going to end up."

A Real Adventure. On Apollo 16's return to Earth in 1972, Duke enjoyed a brief spacewalk to help retrieve exposed film from a mapping camera in the spacecraft's aft section. This was interplanetary space – without any planet nearby – and Duke returned home with vivid impressions.

"It was a real adventure to me. It was a real different impression than doing a walk on the moon in gravity," he said. "I floated out of that hatch, and it was a wonder. It was almost euphoria. I could look off to the right, and there was Earth. It was a new earth. It was just a thin little sliver of a crescent of blue and white. And I rolled around to the left, and there was the moon, gigantic in size. Earth was

180,000 miles away, the moon was 60,000, and there was this enormous, almost full moon towering over us. Everywhere else you looked was the blackness of space."

The glare of the sun drowned out all stars, and Duke was overwhelmed with the feeling of being surrounded by nothingness. "You felt detached. You felt like you were not a participant, but as if you were watching an audience and used the stage as the universe."

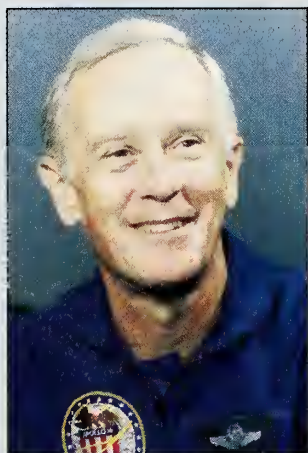
As one of only 12 humans to walk on the moon, Duke speculated on what would be different about walking on Mars. "From the pictures I've seen, it's going to be a lot rockier than the moon, certainly not as dust-covered, and a different color," he said. "You're going to have color in the sky." On the moon, the airless sky was black.

After a pause, Duke described another big difference. "You won't be able to look up and see that beautiful Earth towering above you," he mused. "It's going to be just a pinpoint of light somewhere. Even at the moon, you look back at Earth, and you get that feeling every once in a while, 'Damn, we are a long way away.' The psychological impact of Mars will be that too, I think."

But Duke said he is confident the excitement of the mission and the drive to make it a success would override any kind of psychological block to being that far from home.

"I'd be one to volunteer if I were the right age, the right generation," he said, his grin clear even across the telephone line. □

Article design: Holly K. Soria



Charles M. Duke Jr.

CHARLES M. DUKE JR. *Man on the Moon*

1935: Born in Charlotte, N.C.

1957: Earned Bachelor of Science degree in naval sciences from the U.S. Naval Academy; entered the U.S. Air Force.

1964: Earned Master of Science degree in aeronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

1966: Selected by NASA to be one of 19 astronauts.

1970: Served as a member of Apollo 13's support crew.

1972: Served as Apollo 16 lunar module pilot in first scientific expedition to inspect, survey and sample surface features in the moon's rugged highlands; logged 21 hours and 28 minutes in extravehicular lunar activities; served as backup lunar module pilot for Apollo 17.

1973: Presented an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of South Carolina.

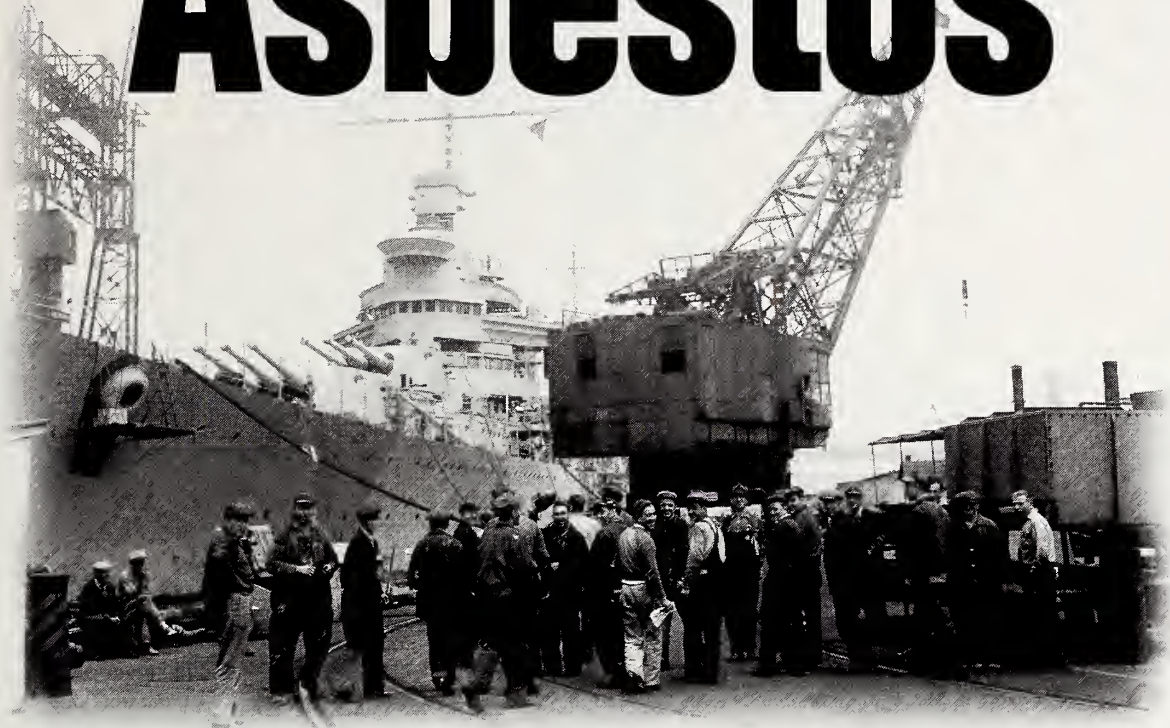
1975: Retired from NASA's astronaut program to enter private business; entered Air Force Reserve.

1979: Promoted to brigadier general.

1986: Retired from Air Force Reserve.

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COMMENTARY

SCHOOL VOUCHERS: THE ROAD TO BETTER EDUCATION





Voucher programs are a civil right that can improve our children's futures.

By Armstrong Williams

American society tilted on its axis when the Supreme Court heard *Brown vs. Board of Education* in 1953. In perhaps the seminal civil rights case of the century, America's greatest legal minds debated whether to allow black children an equal opportunity at education. In his final decision, Chief Justice Earl Warren seared the following words into the nation's consciousness:

To separate (black children) from others of similar age and qualifications solely because of their race generates a feeling of inferiority as to their status in the community that may affect their hearts and minds in a way unlikely ever to be undone. ... We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of "separate but equal" has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.

With these weighty words, all of America's children were equipped with the equal opportunity of education. The greatness of this decision lay in its fundamental understanding that without equal education, we have neither enlightenment, prosperity nor even genuine democracy.

Equal Education. More than four decades later, *Brown vs. Board of Education* has come full circle with the school vouchers debate, an issue that turns on the premise that thousands of children in poor neighborhoods still lack a chance for equal education.

Voucher programs redress this social inequality by applying tax dollars toward sending children to private schools. Under a voucher program, the state would pay all or part of the tuition of children attending private schools. Supporters believe vouchers would improve the quality of education received by urban students, enabling parents to choose where their children learn.

Escape from Violence. Against the backdrop of dangerous and dysfunctional inner-city schools, the voucher

program has ignited fervent support among urban families and has emerged as the dominant civil rights issue of the next decade.

Rightly so. Every day, parents of some public school students fear the gang violence, drug problems and tradition of failure that threatens the very existence of their children.

"I feel that (school vouchers) literally saved my daughter's life," explained Nicky Cavanaugh, a single mother who was able to switch her daughter to a private school with the help of a Florida-area voucher program. Nicky explained that her fifth-grade daughter, Stacy, was terrorized by knife-stabbings, theft and so many other random acts of violence that every morning began with the little girl crying and begging not to return to school. Getting accepted into the school voucher program provided a way out.

"Skimming" Debunked. Unfortunately, the school voucher program has met resistance on Capitol Hill where its detractors argue that vouchers would only exacerbate the problems currently facing public education. They contend that private schools would pluck the brightest students from the public schools, reducing public education to a warehouse where those most in need of help are left to languish.

As Kweisi Mfume, president of the NAACP recently opined, "The best students will be skimmed off. ... Since families will have to make up additional costs, those in the upper- and middle-income brackets will be helped the most — as long as their kids don't have personal, behavioral or educational challenges that cause the private schools to pass them by."

Mfume's logic is worse than befuddling; it is factually unsound. Recent analysis on school vouchers in Dayton, Ohio, refutes this "skimming" hypothesis.

The study, sponsored by Harvard University and compiled by William G. and Paul E. Peterson, found that "initial math scores of the students who took the scholarship (voucher) were four points lower than those who did not make use of the scholarship ... (and that) initial reading scores did not differ significantly."

A report published in July by the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research similarly debunks the "skimming" or "creaming" theory:

"The (voucher) program in Edgewood (San Antonio) offered a monetarily generous scholarship to everyone in the district who wished to attend private schools, creating unlimited potential for creaming. If choice programs cream the best students, this creaming should have been visible in Edgewood. It was not. When the students applied to private schools, the math test scores of the students in the choice programs were not statistically different from the average Edgewood student."

The study also reports there was a mild, though not statistically significant, difference on reading scores.

Bottom line: There are no indications that voucher programs are scooping the best and the brightest out of public education.

More Money Not the Answer. Nonetheless, school administrators and their liberal government cohorts seem determined to preserve the school system status quo. That is to say, their prevailing mode of education reform continues to consist largely of throwing more money at the problem.

For example, the District of Columbia allocates between \$7,000 and \$10,000 per student (more than the national average). Yet, more than 60 percent of the District's graduating class each year scores below basic levels in reading and math.

Increased funding alone cannot ameliorate the education crisis in this country because it does not confront the fact that the public school system is, in effect, a monopoly. Public schools do not compete for a consumer base and therefore have no real incentive for success and no real consequence for failure. Giving parents a choice as to where their children learn, however, would make public education directly accountable to the consumer. Faced with the prospect of fleeing par-

Against the backdrop of dangerous and dysfunctional inner-city schools, the voucher program has ignited fervent support among urban families and has emerged as the dominant civil rights issue of the next decade.



Four-year-old John Gavin Bravo displays a "Yes" vote his mother painted for a Fresno, Calif., rally supporting the school voucher initiative.

ents, schools would have to get their act together or risk losing their customer base. If this country's 200-year-old history may be distilled into a single abiding calculus, it might be that competition of this sort always benefits the consumer.

Suburbanites Fear Change. Sadly, school vouchers will never achieve the

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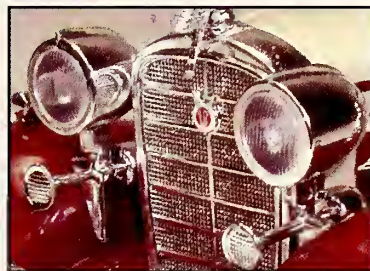
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necessary momentum to become public policy until America's well-to-do suburbanites take up the cause.

Presently, upper middle-class suburban parents seem to quiver at the notion of transplanting poor inner-city children into their private schools. A Stanford University survey reports that a scant one-third of well-to-do suburbanites "strongly" favor school choice options. The urban underprivileged, on the other hand, support vouchers at an 85-percent clip, with 58 percent saying they "strongly" endorse the program.

The disparity of opinion suggests the not-so-subtle ways that class lines are drawn in this country. Responding to recent Gallup surveys, most well-to-do suburbanites paint a gloomy picture of the general state of education in America. On the other hand, the same people radiate optimism when commenting upon the quality of education in their local communities.

This "I'm OK, you're not" mindset belies the worries a lot of upper middle-class citizens have about voucher programs diluting their educational institutions with an influx of inner-city youths. The suburban privileged, acutely aware of their status, go to great pains to keep the economic inferiors out.

As a respondent to one of my previous newspaper columns on school vouchers lamented, "I've worked hard precisely so that my children didn't have to grow up in the city and attend dangerous schools."

Whether we label such responses as "haute bourgeois" entitlement or simply a desire to ensure a better life for one's children, many well-to-do suburbanites crave a clear demarcation between their current and former socioeconomic situations.

In any regard, the major implication is that the suburbanites don't disdain inner-city schools so much as they fear the children who fill those institutions. After all, if they really thought the problem lay with inner-city schools, they would have no problem with voucher programs that would emancipate children from these conditions. Quite the contrary, most well-to-do suburbanites fear that inner-city kids will invade their suburban schools and endanger their suburban way of life. They live in fear of the barbarians scaling their gated communities.

Inability to Empathize. Is this racism? No. It is the erroneous belief that school



Anita Martinez, a single parent of two boys in public schools in Albuquerque, N.M., and Terry Ball, who home-schools five of his children, attend a school choice meeting in Santa Fe, N.M. Their T-shirts ask, "Got Choice?" AP photo

vouchers would lead to a disruption in suburban classrooms. The ignorance is rooted not in a fear of skin color, but in an inability to empathize.

It is this lack of empathy that has stifled broad support for school vouchers, causing well-to-do suburbanites to send their own children to private schools, all the while intoning endlessly and senselessly about how extending the same privilege to the poor will destroy public education.

There is a brutality to this lack of empathy that amounts to writing off entire generations by the whim of geography. If the true mark of a society is the education that its underprivileged receive – and I believe it is – then voucher programs should be embraced as a fundamental civil right and an essential opportunity to improve our children's futures. □



Armstrong Williams is a nationally syndicated talk show host and columnist in Washington, D.C.

Opening illustration: Samuel A. Minick

Article design: Holly K. Soria

Is this racism? No. It is the erroneous belief that school vouchers would lead to a disruption in suburban classrooms. The ignorance is rooted not in a fear of skin color, but in an inability to empathize, to imagine oneself as poor.



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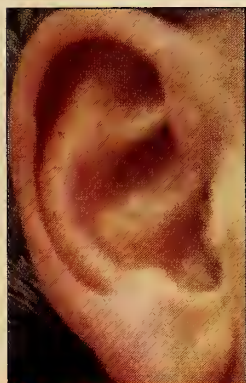
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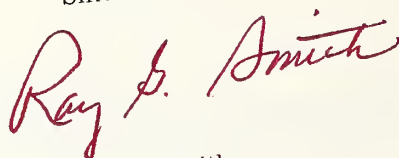
In addition to having no annual fee, The American Legion Visa Card offers a low introductory rate for six months on purchases and balance transfers, as well as access to world-class customer service. Customers can access account information 24 hours a day, either by telephone or by secure online Internet service.

But best of all, by using The American Legion Visa Card, you are supporting The American Legion. A portion of every dollar in purchases and transfers goes to support American Legion programs.

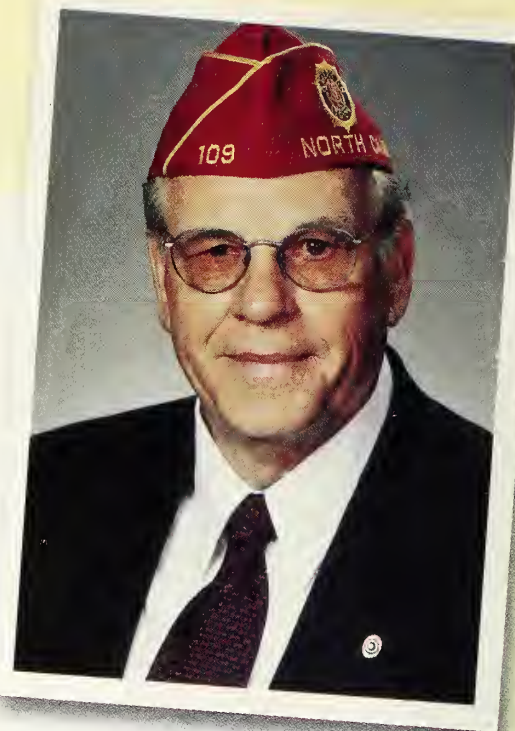
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SPECIAL DELIVERY

Officer helped pave the way for black women in the Army.

By Julie A. Rhoad

SHE WAS A RARITY in World War II: a black, female officer in the Army. But social barriers didn't block her mission to get mail to the front lines.

At the age of 4, Charity Adams Earley, seated on her father's lap on the second-story porch of her home, watched a massive Ku Klux Klan parade strut down her street and into her memories.

"I was extremely scared," she recalled, her southern drawl revealing her roots. "The sight of all of those people in white hoods and white robes, shouting as they walked down the street. It was frightening."

The year was 1922, and Adams Earley lived in the segregated South. Racial discrimination was the law of the land, and it was something that Adams Earley says she came to expect – but not accept.

On her side was a father who was a minister – an honest, decent man who preached to his children that peace and good will would win over hatred.

"We have tried to teach you right from wrong," her father advised. "Just do right." This stuck with Adams Earley, and she devoted her life to doing it. Growing up when blacks and whites ate in segregated sections of restaurants, drank from segregated water fountains and attended segregated schools, Adams Earley beat the odds and became a pioneer who helped win and shape the role of minorities in the military. She enlisted and moved up through the ranks, becoming

the first black woman commissioned as an officer, despite the racial barriers in her way.

Although Charity Adams Earley's name might not be well known, her exploits in the military became famous and she blazed a trail that others soon followed. Today, she lives near Dayton, Ohio, and often is recognized as a role model by women stationed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Eager To Serve. In June 1942, Adams Earley was an educator of four years' standing when the invitation arrived in the mail. It was an opportunity to apply for the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, a branch of the army. Knowing little about the Army and even less about what her role would be, Adams Earley was eager to join the war effort.

Armed with strong ambition and her father's imparted wisdom, Adams Earley was sworn in July 13, 1942, as one of the first members of the WAAC. Headstrong and determined to succeed, Adams Earley was quickly reminded that racial intolerance reigned. While stationed at Fort Des Moines in Iowa, Adams Earley had her confidence bruised when she and the other black women were isolated in segregated housing within a segregated unit – the 1st Co., 1st Training Regiment, 3rd Platoon. Thirty-nine members made up the platoon, one short of the 40 allowed under the Army's initial rule that 10 per-

cent of WAACs could be black women.

"We always had racial prejudices to deal with," Adams Earley said. "You had to be twice as good as anybody else just to accomplish anything."



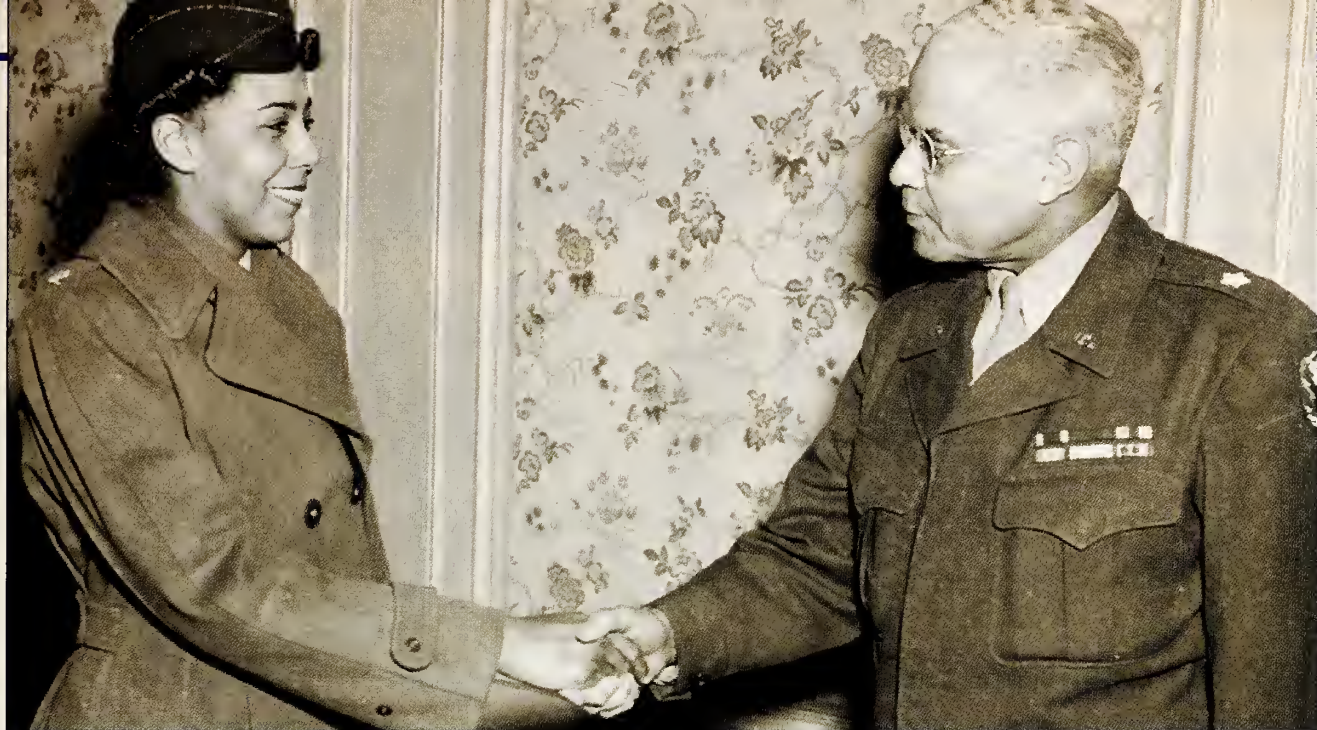
By following her father's admonition to do right, Charity Adams Earley helped defeat racial prejudices in the military.

Adams Earley proved she could be all that she could be in the Army. After basic training, Adams Earley became the first black woman to win a commission at a time when such an idea was unthinkable. She quickly advanced from basic training company commander, where she shaped new troops into soldiers, to training supervisor at the Pentagon, where she developed courses for WAC officer training in overseas theaters of operations. (WAAC became the WAC Sept. 1, 1943.)

It wasn't long before Adams Earley received orders no black woman ever had – to command the first black WAC unit sent to the European Theater of Operations.

Black press agencies had pushed loudly for the Army to send black WACs overseas. But Adams Earley was surprised to receive the order because, she said, "They kept saying they didn't want to send black women overseas. The excuse I always got was that we would be too much trouble. I never did find out what that meant."

Nonetheless, Adams Earley became commanding officer of the only military formation of black women sent to the European Theater of Operations. Expected to fail, her unit, comprising nearly 900



Adams Earley served in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps and was discharged after the war as a lieutenant colonel. Here, Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis welcomes her to the European Theater of Operations in February 1945.

black WACs, became the 6888th Postal Directory Battalion in Birmingham, England. Its job: manage the mail of all 7 million U.S. personnel in the European Theater of Operations.

Adams Earley said the battalion worked seven days a week, rotating three eight-hour shifts to censor and redirect the tremendous backlog of mail.

The women, aware of the necessity for troops to receive word from home, worked feverishly under the motto "No mail, low morale."

Breaking Records. The postal battalion became famous for its record-breaking operation, bringing mail to the front lines faster than any had done before. A book later written about the WAC said, "The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battal-

ion, first Negro WACs to be sent overseas, were assigned to the First Post Office in February 1945. The unit broke all records for redirecting mail. Each of the eight-hour shifts averaged more than 65,000 pieces of mail. Long-delayed letters and packages reached battle casualties who had been moving too frequently for mail to catch up with them."

Adams Earley said their success came from the fact that they were qualified to do the job. And a constant bombardment of racial insults added fuel to their determination to not only succeed, but to succeed beyond expectations.

Patriotism abounded, even when the women were confronted with prejudice. Adams Earley said she saw it as her duty to protect her troops from bigotry. One example involved the Red Cross of London,

which insisted on constructing a separate hotel to segregate the white WACs from the black WACs. "I promise you," Adams Earley told the Red Cross director, "that as God is my witness, as long as I am commanding officer of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, not one member of that unit will ever spend one night here." Her unit, Adams Earley said, supported the boycott 100 percent — "My proudest moment in the military."

"They kept saying they didn't want to send black women overseas. The excuse I always got was that we would be too much trouble. I never did find out what that meant."

— Charity Adams Earley

She also successfully fought against segregated recreational facilities, and a general's racial slurs came to a screeching halt when she filed court-martial charges against him for disobeying a directive from headquarters.

By the time Adams Earley left the service in March 1946, she had been promoted to lieutenant colonel, the highest rank possible in the WAC other than the one full-colonel position held by the WAC director. She had proven that women and blacks were qualified to serve their country. "Even as I was leaving the service," Adams Earley later said, "there was the satisfaction that I was one Negro WAC who had made it." □

Julie A. Rhoad is a former assistant editor of The American Legion Magazine.

Article design: Doug Rollison



Maj. Charity Adams Earley, left, stands at attention while observing an honor parade before leaving Fort Des Moines for overseas duty.

W W I I

K O R E A



William Mace, right, drills with the 4th Armored Division at Pine Camp in upstate New York in 1941.



Mace, far right, joins his platoon during one of Korea's quiet daytimes.

Photos Courtesy William Mace

They Served

T W I C E

Of the millions of U.S. men and women who served in World War II, tens of thousands risked the ultimate sacrifice a second time — in Korea.

By Jay Stuller

THINGS WEREN'T GOING well for the 2nd Division of the 38th Infantry during February 1951. On a battlefield north of Hongsong, in an engagement later known as the "Gettysburg of Korea," Maj. John Blackwell ordered his troops to retreat while he and four others destroyed abandoned artillery.

Skirting the bodies of fallen comrades, Blackwell kept moving south — until a bullet tore through his lower jaw.

"You can still see traces of where it knocked my face loose," observed Blackwell, now 80 years old and a resident of Tallahassee, Fla. But this wasn't the first time he'd been shot. Six years before, during World War II, Blackwell caught a bullet in Luxembourg, which earned him

an express ticket stateside. "Every now and then, that leg hurts like hell," Blackwell said, "so I guess both million-dollar wounds are still paying interest."

Answering the Call (Again). Of the millions of Americans called to serve in the Korean War, many tens of thousands were putting their lives on the line for the second time around.

Blackwell knows he was lucky: He survived the crucible of combat in both wars. Others survived battle against the Japanese and Germans, only to perish on the Korean peninsula just a half-decade later.

"No one really knows exactly how many there were," according to Dr. William Donnelly, a historian with the U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C. "It probably could have been figured out. But at the time, no

one was too interested in the question."

In the wake of World War II, the entire U.S. military downsized and decommissioned faster than a circus gets out of town. "A large number of vets were placed in the reserves, with the idea that if World War III broke out, it would be against the Soviets in Europe, and there'd be time to retrain and ship them across the Atlantic," Donnelly explained. "Vets agreed to go in the reserves because it came with a one-rank promotion. But generally, they didn't drill or train."

When Korea erupted in 1950, the United States called up reservists and shipped them off to combat. Many regulars were left in Europe because of uncertainty concerning the Soviets. "This had to be a shock," Donnelly said. "After all, the vets were five years older and had established civilian careers and growing families."

- Babcock & Wilcox Bankruptcy -

If you currently suffer from asbestos-related injury and you worked at sites with commercial boilers, you must act now to preserve your rights.

The Last Day to File Claims is July 30, 2001 (the "Bar Date")

The Babcock & Wilcox Company and certain subsidiaries ("B&W") have filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. As part of the bankruptcy process, B&W must alert those who have current Asbestos Personal Injury Claims, as well as Derivative Asbestos Claims or Asbestos Property Damage Claims. You must file these claims by the Bar Date.

This notice does not involve and does not bar future claims for asbestos injuries that are not evident as of the Bar Date.

B&W purchased asbestos from manufacturers and the material was used many years ago as insulation to protect people and equipment from high temperatures inside industrial, utility and marine boiler systems. Although government regulations have required low exposure

thresholds for asbestos since the early 1970's, you, your family or your heirs may have a claim against B&W relating to asbestos exposure from a worksite or ship, among others, that had a B&W boiler system, or involving other B&W asbestos-related components.

To preserve your claim against B&W, you must file a claim to be received by July 30, 2001.* If you do not file a claim, you will lose your right to bring such a claim against B&W in the future. Filing a claim does not necessarily entitle you to compensation.

For more information, or to receive a long form notice and claim form, call the toll free number listed below, or write to: Claims Agent, Re: Babcock & Wilcox, P.O. Box 9495, Minneapolis, MN 55440-9495, or visit the website at www.bwbardate.com

***If you previously settled an asbestos claim with B&W before the bankruptcy, but have not yet been paid, you must still file a claim, AND YOUR CLAIM IS DUE EARLIER. Please obtain a long form notice for more information.**

There are several types of claims subject to the Bar Date. Complete descriptions of these claims as well as more details about the bankruptcy may be found in the long form notice and claim form that is available at the website or by calling the toll free number below. The foregoing and following is only a summary.

Asbestos Personal Injury Claims are those involving personal injuries or damages related to asbestos exposure associated with equipment in any way marketed by B&W, including most notably boiler systems. Derivative Asbestos Claims generally involve claims related to someone else's asbestos exposure and include cross-claims, contribution claims, subrogation claims, reimbursement or indemnity claims, etc. Asbestos Property Damage Claims relate for example to diminution of value or economic loss, etc., caused by asbestos associated with equipment in any way marketed by B&W. The Bar Date also involves claims related to nuclear fuel processing facilities located in Apollo, Pennsylvania, and Parks Township, Pennsylvania, as separately

outlined in other notices and the long form notice and claim package.

In order to file any asbestos claim, an injury must be currently manifested which generally means that some evidence of an asbestos-related injury is evident, showing, diagnosed, or otherwise known. If you have no current manifestation of an injury you may not have a claim that is subject to the Bar Date, and you may be entitled to file such valid claims at an appropriate time in the future.

The Chapter 11 filing by The Babcock & Wilcox Company includes its subsidiaries American, Inc., Babcock & Wilcox Construction Company, Inc., and Diamond Power International, Inc. Because this is a voluntary Chapter 11 filing and B&W remains solvent, there is no Bar Date against unsecured creditors. Accordingly, commercial creditors and suppliers need take no action. Also, all employee wages, salaries, benefits and retiree benefits are unaffected and protected.

1-877-657-9158
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Eldine Perrin was one such reservist. A crack navigator with the 14th Air Force during World War II, Perrin guided C-45 supply missions "over the hump" between India and China and oversaw the installation of navigation aids in the Himalayas. "We didn't have many planes shot down, but lost 23 in just one Himalayan storm," recalled the 80-year-old Perrin, who now lives in Washington state. "When you go down there, no one ever walks out."

A full colonel at age 28, Perrin started a promising career with Shell Oil Co. after the war. By then, he had three children (two more would eventually follow). "I bet a guy a hundred bucks they wouldn't recall me," Perrin remembered. "I thought they'd take more junior officers. Then a fella dropped by and said, 'Colonel?' I said, 'I'm not a colonel.' And he said, 'You are now.'"

Perrin spent the new war as a commanding officer training other navigators. While he wasn't assigned to the Korean peninsula until 1955, Korea essentially cost him his Shell career. Perrin accepted this deal of the cards with equanimity.

"In those times, I believed that was just what you did," said Perrin, who much later helped develop aircraft guidance systems for Litton and Boeing. "But yes, there was resentment among some reservists, who wondered why they had to go back into combat when younger people were sent to Europe."

From War to "Police Action." Other double-veterans note that Korea simply did not incite the fighting fervor of the previous war.

"In WWII, we went there to whip the darn Germans and were fired up about it right down to the last draftee," recalled William Mace, an armored division technical sergeant who was with the unit that captured the Remagen Bridge in Germany. "In Korea, we were called to do a job called a 'police action.' I don't think we were as passionate."

However, like Blackwell – who re-enlisted in 1945 after personally hearing Gen. George Marshall ask veterans to serve as the military's post-war glue – Mace was a professional. He brought experience to Korea, and it

"We sent a message to the Russian Communists that they would never beat us. If that helped preserve freedom, then Korea was as worthwhile as WWII."

– William Mace

was sorely needed.

"I'm all of 26 years old, a platoon sergeant, and I'm recruiting cooks and MPs to drive tanks," Mace said. "Frankly, we weren't prepared for how difficult it would be." Although wounded in September 1950, he remained on Korean battlefronts for nearly another full year.

While the sacrifices of warriors such as Blackwell and Mace were known only to fellow soldiers and family, others were more public. Over two wars, Boston Red Sox slugger Ted Williams lost nearly five years of his baseball career.

A naval aviator during World War II, Williams hadn't seen combat. But that changed in 1952 when he came out of the reserves to fly 49 missions with the first Marine Air Wing. He was once hit badly, and in a crash landing he narrowly avoided a posthumous induction into the Hall of Fame.

Mustered out in 1953, Williams played baseball until 1960. He hit 525 career home runs. Had he not lost those seasons, Williams might have broken Babe Ruth's old record of 714 home runs.

But there were bigger sacrifices than Williams'.

While flying with the 5th Air Force in New Guinea and the Philippines, Maj. George Davis Jr. shot down seven Japanese aircraft. In Korea, he had 14 aerial kills.

But the double ace and Medal of Honor recipient was shot down and killed in February 1952. Many others fell to anti-aircraft fire and MiG-15s flown by veteran Chinese and Soviet pilots.

Still, Williams and Davis were members of a formidable force. The younger

pilots might have had better reflexes, but the World War II vets were Top Guns. America had literally hundreds of thousands of combat jocks from the greatest aerial war ever. Some graduated from prop-driven Mustangs, Corsairs and Hellcats to faster and more agile jets.

As Jennie Ethell Chancey and William R. Forstchen wrote in their recent book "Hot Shots: An Oral History of the Air Force Combat Pilots in the Korean War," "A pilot who earned his wings anytime after the spring of 1945 walked and flew in the shadow of giants. The newer pilots might be more technically versed and skilled ... but they were still, in the eyes of the veterans, untested."

Korea had plenty of tests to go around. Some U.S. pilots had to fly old prop-driven fighters. Marine Capt. Jesse Folmar, one of those shadow-casting "giants," brought down a MiG jet with his Corsair.

Day and Night. Along with jet aircraft, fighting men saw other differences between the wars. "What struck me most was that in Korea, everything happened faster than during the war in Europe," recalled John Blackwell, a veteran of the Normandy landings.

What sticks in Mace's mind is night and day. "The Germans most always fought in daytime. Where I was [in Korea], the Chinese always came at night. To me, WWII was fought by light. Korea was a dark war."

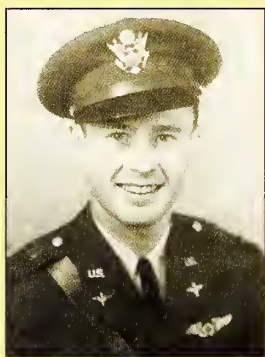
Korea could be cruel to World War II vets. After five years of civilian life, some had lost the will to conduct the grubby business of war. "But on the whole," Donnelly argued, "the experience of the vets is what held the United Nations and U.S. forces together."

While World War II seemed to have had a greater purpose, Mace holds the two wars in near equal regard. "We pushed the North Koreans and Chinese back, drew a line and held it," he insisted. "I think right then and there we sent a message to the Russian Communists that they would never beat us. If that helped preserve freedom, then Korea was as worthwhile as WWII. That's only my opinion. And I'm just a soldier."

No one could have said it better or is more qualified to do so. □

Jay Stuller is a freelance writer and longtime contributor to The American Legion Magazine.

Article design: Doug Rollison



Eldine Perrin served as an Air Force navigator in World War II.

Courtesy: Eldine Perrin

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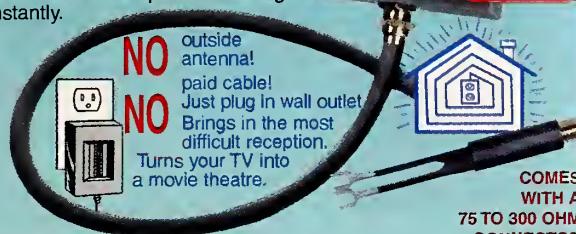
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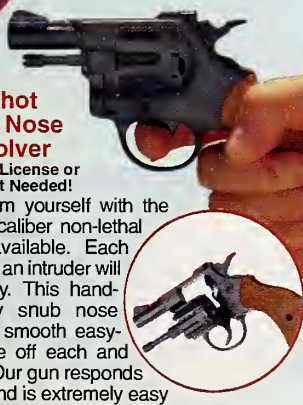
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IS HATE-CRIMES LEGISLATION NECESSARY?

Rep. Jim Ryun, R-Kan.



NO The attempt by some to create a new class of violent crimes known as "hate crimes" ignores one very important fact: all violent crime is motivated by hate. Only a person with a depraved heart could commit such acts.

While I do not question the motives of those seeking hate-crimes legislation, I fear the societal implications. This debate has shifted the focus from making our nation safer for all its citizens to pitting one group of people against another. In a time when we are all seeking unity, diversity and tolerance, nothing is more divisive and intolerant than telling one victim's family that their son or daughter deserved less protection under the law because he or she did not fall into one of the protected classes called "hate crimes."

Not only are the basic human and societal arguments flawed, but the basis in law is flawed as well. It is impossible to find proof of thought or motive, only proof of action. Motive has never been an element of the crime that must be proven in a court of law. Rather, it is merely a theory or argument used by prosecutors to show premeditation or the horrific nature of the act.

"We should focus our time, attention and resources on investigating, arresting and prosecuting to the fullest extent of the law all violent criminals."

In fact, in the highly publicized cases of Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, prosecutors used motive to show the juries that these murders were acts that deserved the highest punishment allowed under the law. In both cases, the juries came back with guilty verdicts and handed out the strictest punishments available to them, life in prison without parole or death.

Our criminal justice system works. These depraved individuals were arrested, tried, prosecuted, convicted and sentenced to the fullest extent of the law.

This nation is not well-served by attempting to designate one violent crime as more hateful than another. Rather, we should focus our time, attention and resources on investigating, arresting and prosecuting to the fullest extent of the law all violent criminals who seek to destroy the lives of innocent people as well as the very fabric of our country.

By promoting the safety and security of all our citizens, we can bring our nation together, not further divide it. This is the message we should be promoting.

Rep. Michael Capuano, D-Mass.



YES Simply put, no person should live in fear because of his or her gender, race, ethnicity, disability or sexual orientation. That is why I support the "Hate Crimes Prevention Act," which expands federal jurisdiction in these matters.

Those who oppose this law ask why the same crime should be more severely punished because of some characteristic of the victim. Murder is murder. Assault is assault. On its face, that argument makes sense. But I ask you to look into your own heart. Can you honestly say that a random attack on a loved one would feel the same as an attack motivated by irrational hatred? Because your wife was Korean? Because your son walked with a limp due to a birth injury? Because your entire family was Protestant?

I have two children of my own. Any attack on them would anger me beyond imagination. But if I knew they just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time — entered the bank or the convenience store as the robber was fleeing — I could accept that accident. If they were expected to recover, I could take comfort in the thought that lightning doesn't strike twice. If, however, someone hurt them because of who they are, what future would there be for us? We would know that some other person saw us not as neighbors and fellow citizens, but as fair game. Would we always be looking over our shoulders?

There is a difference between common crimes and attacks based on emotions and prejudices unacceptable in a free and open society like our America of the 21st century. Current law allows federal prosecution of a hate crime only if it was motivated by bias based on race, religion, national origin or color and the assailant intended to prevent the victim from exercising a federally protected right (e.g. voting, attending school, etc.). This dual requirement substantially limits the assistance the federal government can give to states. Although some states protect victims of crimes based on gender, disability or sexual orientation, such safeguards need to be added to the list of existing federal protections. Doing so would enhance penalties and serve as a greater deterrent.

No American should live in fear. People with prejudices must understand that although they are free to hold hateful beliefs, they are not free to act on them. Those who commit such crimes should face the full force of our judicial system.

"No American should live in fear. People with prejudices must understand that although they are free to hold hateful beliefs, they are not free to act on them."

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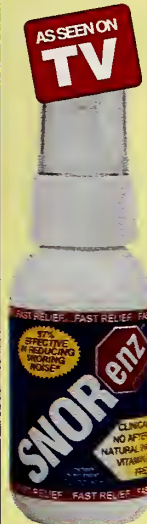
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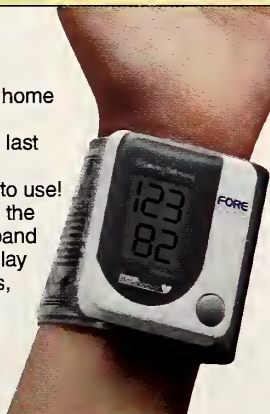
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Reinventing government

Voters heard claims during the presidential campaign that the federal bureaucracy had been decreased by more than 300,000 people in the last eight years. Figures show there was actually a reduction of 325,877 since January 1993.

Unfortunately, the Defense Department's share was 283,801 – a whopping 88 percent. Another 42,076 of this reduction came from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Jim Guirard, a government affairs consultant, points out that when we combine DoD and VA reductions, we see that the reduction in big government “has come out of the hides of the military and former military, and the civilian bureaucracy is just as big and intrusive as ever.”

Espionage warning

Notra Trulock, the former head of intelligence at the Department of Energy, says he is not optimistic that we will ever get to the bottom of the Chinese espionage problem.

Trulock warned the FBI about espionage in the nuclear labs, but stated, “To our astonishment, the FBI didn’t show much enthusiasm for this case, almost from the get-go. We got down about an inch deep. But if you start drilling, who knows where it would stop?”

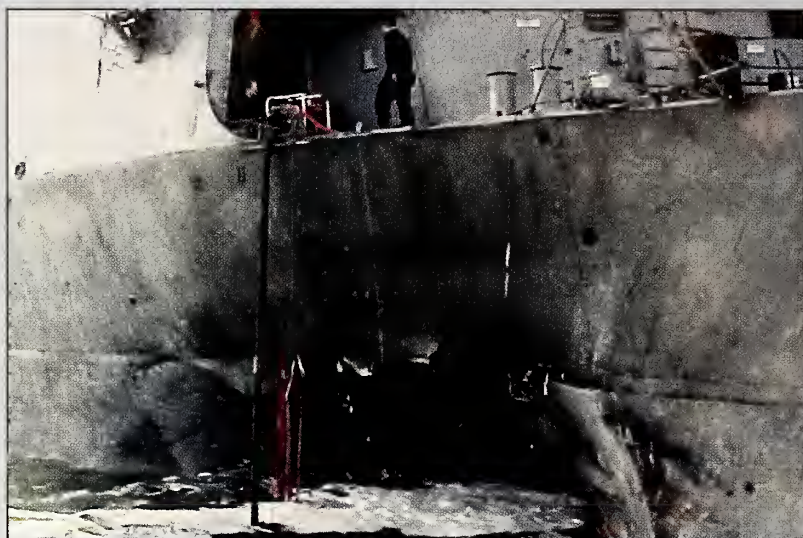
It apparently stopped with Wen Ho Lee, the Taiwanese-born Chinese-American scientist at the Los Alamos lab who pleaded guilty to one count of mishandling classified nuclear-weapons information.

After originally being charged with 59 felonies, he made a plea bargain and was set free. As part of the deal, the FBI had to ask him to explain what happened to some of the tapes containing the material he copied. “You scratch your head on that one,” said Trulock.

Was the case against Wen Ho Lee deliberately sabotaged? “That’s a strong allegation,” Trulock says. “But it sure looks fishy to me.”

Terrorists among us

In the aftermath of the attack on the *USS Cole*, the CBS program “60 Minutes” aired a rare interview with the National Security Council’s Richard Clarke, who warned that it was just a



According to an investigation by New York television station WABC, it is relatively easy to get within a few feet of Navy destroyers, even nuclear-powered submarines. On Oct. 12, *USS Cole* was rammed by a bomb-laden boat in the port of Aden, Yemen, killing 17 U.S. sailors and injuring 39.

TV news investigation exposes loose security

In an investigation undertaken before the *USS Cole* attack, New York television station WABC exposed how easy it is to get within a few feet of Navy destroyers, even nuclear-powered submarines, at three naval bases.

On land, the subs at Groton, Conn., appeared well-protected by locked gates, cameras and guards. But reporter Jim Hoffer took a small rental boat within a few feet of them.

At Norfolk Naval Base, the home port of the *USS Cole*, Hoffer’s car was waved through the

front gate, no questions asked. He says, “We roamed freely for nearly four hours.” He parked the car in the reserved parking space of a commanding officer and left it unattended next to a sub for 40 minutes.

Rep. Jim Saxton, R-N.J., says, “Obviously something is amiss here; something is very, very wrong. No one should be able to approach a naval vessel like you did.”

The Navy defended base security, saying it had the necessary measures “to meet the anticipated threat.”

— C.K.

matter of time before American territory was the site of a nuclear, biological or chemical attack.

How could it happen? Last June the National Commission on Terrorism issued a report noting that 4 million people reside illegally in the United States and “almost half of them entered the country without inspection, meaning they crossed U.S. borders between inspection stations or entered by small boat or aircraft.”

The report stated that only a “minuscule portion of all foreigners in the United States attempt to harm the country in any way,” but it didn’t explain whether this was several hundred or several thousand.

In his new book, “Sellout: The Inside Story of President Clinton’s Impeachment,” David Schippers examines how the Clinton administration opened the country to criminals and potential terrorists through the 1996 “Citizenship USA” program, granting citizenship to thousands of aliens the administration thought would vote Democratic. Under the law, only qualified immigrants with no significant criminal history may be admitted. But Schippers found more than 75,000 new citizens had arrest records when they applied for citizenship, and another 176,000 citizens did not have their fingerprints checked for criminal records.

—Cliff Kincaid

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Marines seek former Lejeune residents

The U.S. Marine Corps is looking for former base residents who were born at Camp Lejeune, N.C., between 1968 and 1985.

The Marine Corps is trying to locate approximately 10,000 children born to parents residing at Camp Lejeune who may have been exposed to contaminants in the camp's water supply prior to 1985. Camp Lejeune water was contaminated with compounds linked to birth defects and childhood cancers such as leukemia.

Based on a small sampling of former Camp Lejeune residents, the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) published a report in 1998 identifying a potential link between the waterborne contaminants and birth defects. The ATSDR health survey is conducted by telephone. Those who believe they are among the targeted group may participate in the survey by calling the National Opinion Research Center at 1-800-639-4270. The Center is conducting the survey for ATSDR.

Vietnam vets urged to seek diabetes test

The possibility of a diabetes epidemic in the United States has spurred a call for Vietnam War veterans to seek a routine health examination for the disease. If diabetes is diagnosed and treated, serious health complications can be avoided, said House Veterans Affairs committee chairman Bob Stump, R-Ariz.

Type II diabetes, often referred to as "the hidden killer," affects 16 million Americans. And Vietnam War veterans, most of whom are over 50 years old, are clearly at risk, said VA Subcommittee on Health chairman Cliff Stearns.

Veterans who served in Vietnam and have not had this routine test in the past several years should inquire about it.



Visitors to the Saratoga National Cemetery in New York enter through the Avenue of Flags. Saratoga is one of four new VA cemeteries opened in the past two years; others are in Illinois, Ohio and Texas.

VA establishes new cemeteries

In the past two years, four new VA national cemeteries have opened: Saratoga in New York, Abraham Lincoln in Illinois, Dallas-Fort Worth in Texas and Western Reserve near Cleveland.

Other metropolitan areas scheduled to establish VA cemeteries in coming years include Sacramento, Calif., Atlanta, Detroit and Miami. Plans also are in the works to establish cemeteries in Pittsburgh and Oklahoma City as part of the Veterans Millennium Health and Benefits Act.

The new VA cemeteries are expected to open by 2005, said Roger R. Rapp, deputy undersecretary of opera-

tions for VA's National Cemetery Administration. The NCA has operated VA national cemeteries since 1973, with the exception of Arlington National Cemetery, which is operated by the Army.

The NCA is charged with serving the expected needs of the nation's 25 million living military veterans. That population, especially among aging World War II vets, is rapidly declining, according to VA spokesman Steve Westerfeld. About 550,000 veterans died in fiscal 1999, he said, adding that veteran deaths will continue to increase and reach an estimated peak of 620,000 in 2008.

VA applications available online

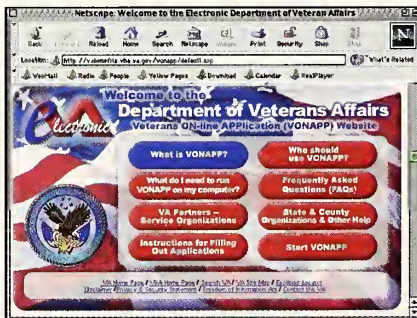
Fast, simple and secure is how VA describes two Internet-based systems for veterans seeking compensation, pension, health care and rehabilitation benefits. Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs Hershel W. Gober calls the move "the first step toward an electronic VA."

Veterans applying for health care can now fill out and submit a 10-10 EZ form

online. The form is automatically emailed to a VA health-care facility selected by the veteran. VA employees input the data, print the form and mail it back to the veteran for signature. Veterans have the option of printing out forms and mailing them to the VA facility themselves.

Veterans Online Applications works the same way for veterans applying for compensation, pension and vocational rehabilitation benefits. Online applications are sent electronically to the veteran's local VA office, where processing begins immediately. "These forms are individually encrypted, ensuring the privacy of veterans' personal data," Gober said.

Gober added that VA plans to eventually have all its education, health care and benefits applications online. However, veterans are not required to apply online and can continue to fill out paper applications. To access Internet applications, visit <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov>.



Veterans can now go to <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov> to apply for certain benefits.

Smith: Veterans Affairs budget on right track

Proposed increases in federal spending for veterans' health care, long-term care and benefits processing are positive steps in meeting the needs for America's 25 million veterans, says American Legion National Commander Ray G. Smith.



Tom Sheehy

But there's work to be done. "The American Legion stands by its own budget request," said Smith. "Neither Congress nor the administration matched The American Legion's budget figures across the board. However, each played a part in increasing veterans' health care by funding \$1.3 billion for the next fiscal year."

The \$20.3 billion budget for VA health care was increased by a combined \$3 billion over the last two budget cycles.

The American Legion recommended more spending for health care, medical and prosthetics research, major and minor construction and grants to build state-run veterans nursing care facilities. But the budget met the organization's requests for the Veterans Benefits Administration, National Cemetery Administration and state cemetery grants program, Smith said.

Filipino veterans get expanded VA benefits

Bills recently signed into law aid certain Filipino veterans residing in the United States who fought alongside American troops during World War II.

The bills expand access to health care and burial services and increase the rates of compensation paid by VA to certain service-disabled Filipino veterans.

Until now, only Filipinos who served in the U.S. armed forces and Old Philippine Scouts have been receiving VA compensation and medical benefits equal to those of U.S. veterans.

The two new laws will enable VA to improve benefits and services to certain World War II veterans of the Philippine Commonwealth Army and recognized guerrilla groups with service-connected conditions who reside permanently in the United States.

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Reports highlight Fall Meetings

Department leaders and members of the National Executive Committee came together for the Fall Meetings Oct. 16-19 at National Headquarters in Indianapolis. Membership, the Reconnect Program, national security and flag protection were among the topics discussed.

■ Recommitting his promise to halt the membership slide, National Commander Ray Smith asked those in positions of leadership to assist him in the challenge. Smith described his new initiative, "Ray's Aces," a program that recognizes Legionnaires for recruitment efforts. Posts meeting recruitment goals also receive recognition.

■ Allen Titus, Chairman of the National Security Commission, reported that military leaders recently told Congress American troops were in danger of losing their fighting edge unless the president either adds tens of billions of dollars to the defense budget or adopts a less-ambitious agenda for using the military in peace operations around the world.

■ Dan Wheeler, President of the Citizens Flag Alliance, discussed the importance of continuing the fight to protect the flag. According to Wheeler, Legionnaires must continue to inform and to lead. "If we do these things, we

will grasp the victory and protect our flag," he said. Wheeler said that in order to enlist more people in the fight, Legionnaires can utilize the CFA's mini-resource book, "Let the People Decide."

■ Americanism Chairman Joe Caouette addressed the concern that the Commission has noticed signs of losing control of many of the Legion youth programs. Due to either the lack of manpower, funds or initiative, non-Legion groups and individuals have assumed the responsibility of conducting programs traditionally associated with the Legion.

"This trend threatens the very existence of American Legion programs in some departments, and it must change," warned Caouette. He stressed the importance of Legionnaires at all levels participating in youth programs and serving on program committees.

Additionally, he discussed the matter of American Legion groups buying and selling foreign-made products at youth program events. "We have resolutions that call on the Legion to buy American-made products when available," Caouette said. "The purchase of American-made products should be considered first."

Museum receives rare sculpture

The American Legion received a rare museum piece donated by Sonia Oris Lyrus and Devin Ben-Hur of Portland, Ore.: a 39-inch, solid-bronze statue valued at \$25,000.

The statue, one of 160 replicas of the original 39-foot, 40-ton sculpture "Good Defeats Evil" by Zurab Tsereteli, is on display at the Emil A. Blackmore Museum at The American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis.

The original sculpture was a gift from the Soviet Union and was placed at the United Nations in 1990.

As the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty negotiations were taking place in 1987, the sculptor was experimenting with various peaceful compositions using missiles. The Dragon of War is represented by using pieces of dismantled Pershing II and SS-20 missiles — two of the weapons systems for delivering



The bronze sculpture "Good Defeats Evil" by Zurab Tsereteli.

short- and medium-range missiles eliminated by the INF Treaty, which was supported by The American Legion.



The International Legions' Friendship Gavel has been passed between Royal Canadian Legion Branch 57 in Mission, British Columbia, and various American Legion Posts since 1950.

Posts pass gavel

A group of American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion members of the Department of Washington celebrated the 50th anniversary of the International Gavel Passing Sept. 30 at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 57 in Mission, British Columbia.

The traveling gavel, known as the "International Legions' Friendship Gavel," was returned to the Mission Post after a six-month stay at Post 76 in Arlington, Wash. The gavel has been going back and forth between the Mission Post and various U.S. Posts since 1950.

Post raises funds for WWII Memorial

Members of Joyce Kilmer Post 25, Milltown, N.J., teamed up with the Highway 1 North Brunswick Wal-Mart store to raise nearly \$35,000 for the National World War II Memorial, now under construction in Washington, D.C. The fundraiser was part of a national campaign by The American Legion and Wal-Mart to raise money for the memorial.

The campaign raised \$14.5 million for the memorial. The Legion's efforts in North Brunswick pushed the store's donation total to No. 2 in the entire chain of Wal-Mart stores. More than 3,000 Wal-Mart stores, Sam's Clubs and distribution centers nationwide coordinated various activities to raise funds for the memorial.

Americanism Conference offers idea exchange

Department chairmen from American Legion Boys State, Oratorical, Baseball and Department of Chaplains gathered in Indianapolis Nov. 3-5 for the second annual Americanism Conference.

National Commander Ray Smith kicked off the joint conference at a reception where Legion volunteers were joined by Girls State directors.

The weekend conference provided an exchange of ideas and an opportunity to review effective program procedures.

Boys State/Boys Nation. The Boys State Conference emphasized that Boys State programs are an American Legion tradition and, as such, must remain under the control of the Legion at the Post level. The attendees agreed that Legion volunteers need to be involved from program promotion through the final selection of delegates.



Chapa

Justin Chapa, 2000 Boys Nation President, and Bob Brock, 2000 Boys Nation Vice-President, were featured speakers at the Boys State/Boys Nation conference.

Oratorical. Conference objectives were to educate program volunteers and participants about the National High School Oratorical Contest, to promote contest consistency and to share ideas about publicizing the program.

The problem of low contestant participation, however, was the No. 1 topic. The Department chairmen made several recommendations to address the problem, such as developing an online contestant registration form and promotional materials in printed, online and video formats.

Baseball. Department and District chairmen gathered to learn more about the new NCAA rules that go into effect with the 2001 season, as well as to make recommendations for the 2002 season.

New rule recommendations, as well as a new Legion Baseball Code of Ethics recommended for approval, were also topics of discussion.

Chaplains. The main thrust of the Chaplains' Conference was to develop the skills of the Department Chaplains through hands-on "how-to" presentations and small group discussions. The

small groups discussed what to include in developing new resource materials.

National Chaplain Dr. Calvin C. Turpin emphasized the importance of having the proper tools to perform chap-

lain duties. He suggested all chaplains obtain copies of: "The American Legion Officer's Guide," "Chaplains Handbook: Service to God and Country" and "The Chaplain's Prayer Manual."

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Post inducts terminally ill boy into color guard

A Toledo, Ohio, boy was granted a cherished wish by The American Legion Nov. 3 when the color guard of the Joseph W. Diehn Post 468 inducted him into the Post's color guard.

About 75 relatives and neighbors applauded at the rare ceremony for Emilio Rodriguez, 6, who has terminal cancer.

He was promoted immediately to second lieutenant, and happily accepted salutes from color guard Capt. Rodger Thebeau, Sgt. Maj. Tom Jones, and 2nd Lt. Dolores Guinn.

"This is the first time we've ever done anything like this. We usually attend memorial services, march in parades and turn out for funerals," Thebeau said. "It's just a feel-good thing for the kid. We hope we can do similar things in the future."

In 1998, a tumor was found in the boy's left kidney, his mother, Anita Ramirez, said. The kidney was removed at Toledo Hospital, but tumors since have developed in his lungs and diaphragm.

Emilio, a kindergartner at St. Mary's Catholic School, had a stem cell transplant to slow the cancer's growth in May at the University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor. Chemotherapy and radiation treatments were stopped in May after his physicians declared the illness terminal.



Sgt. Maj. Tom Jones of Joseph W. Diehn Post 468's color guard presents Emilio Rodriguez of Toledo with an Army badge as Emilio's mother, Anita Ramirez, watches.

"There was nothing more they can do. It just keeps coming back," his mother said. Ms. Ramirez said the Legion's color guard induction in the family's backyard was aimed at fulfilling the boy's dream of becoming a soldier. "That's all he's ever talked about," his mother stated.

Dressed in a fatigue uniform that his grandfather, Gilbert Ramirez, bought, Emilio was welcomed into the Post's color guard. He now is eligible to attend color guard meetings as "an honorary member," Thebeau said.

Emilio was given a uniform patch

identifying him as a member of the Legion's color guard, a Vietnam-era POW patch, an American Flag patch, and "because he is interested in the Army, a U.S. Army patch," Jones said.

He also received a certificate signed by the three Legion members making his promotion to second lieutenant official, but only as far as the Legion Post's color guard is concerned.

The color guard heard of Emilio's hopes of joining the Army and about his medical prognosis from Capt. Thebeau's father, Harold Thebeau Jr., who works with the boy's grandfather, Gilbert Ramirez, at Roadway Express, Inc.

"Gilbert was talking about the boy's problem. I told Rodger about it. He decided to do something to help," the elder Thebeau said. "It's just something nice for the kid."

After the color guard induction ended, Emilio's grandfather said he was "100-percent happy" with the way things turned out. "I couldn't have asked for anything better. It was perfect. It made my grandson's dream come true."

Emilio's brother, Joe, 17, a student at Woodward High School, who plans to join the Army after graduation, said, "I think it's cool. He's always wanted to be in the Army."

— Reprinted courtesy of The Toledo (Ohio) Blade

Post boosts Scouts under fire for moral stand

Under heavy fire for a policy that excludes avowed homosexuals, the Boy Scouts of Pompano Beach, Fla., are getting a boost from American Legion Post 142.

Post member and Pompano Beach commissioner Bob Shelley said local Legionnaires are raising several thousand dollars for the city's Boy Scouts.

About a thousand people attended a community Veterans Day celebration Nov. 11, which was co-sponsored by Elks and Fraternal Order of Police associates.

The vibrant Post 142, located next door to Pompano Beach City Hall, wants to keep the city friendly to the Boy Scouts, unlike some surrounding cities, Shelley said.

In an area where gay-rights groups wield strong political power, Post 142 is almost considered an "outpost" for its support of the Boy Scouts, Shelley said.

"Those of us who are God-fearing men and women feel we must take a stand to defend their oath. It's so similar to our own," Shelley said. "The Scouts shouldn't have to change."

Apparently local government thinks otherwise. Since the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling upholding the Scouts' right to exclude avowed homosexuals, the group has been denied more than \$100,000 in grant money from Fort Lauderdale and Broward County commissioners. The Scouts' use of parks and public facilities has also been limited.



A group of Scouts gathers to view a replica of the Vietnam Wall at the Pompano Beach, Fla., annual "Salute to Veterans" celebration. The event was sponsored by The American Legion's Sterling McClellan Post 142, and several other Pompano Beach groups.

NOTE TO READERS: NEW REUNION SERVICE

Beginning with this issue, National Reunion Registry will handle all reunion information services for *The American Legion Magazine*. NRR, a division of Military Information Enterprises, Inc., is a private organization that provides information about reunions, helps veterans locate old buddies and offers other special benefits to veterans and their families. The new department will be called *Comrades*.

HOW TO USE NATIONAL REUNION REGISTRY*

NRR maintains contact information on thousands of reunions and provides this information free of charge to veterans.

There are several ways to register reunions or check reunion listings with the National Reunion Registry. Please contact the organization directly by writing to **NRR/Reunions, PO Box 17118, Spartanburg, SC 29301**, by faxing (864) 595-0813 or via e-mail at information@militaryUSA.com. Due to the large number of reunions, NRR cannot accept phone requests for reunion information.

Using the Internet is the quickest, most accurate way to access the reunion registry. You may check to see if your buddies are planning a reunion by visiting NRR's Web site at www.MilitaryUSA.com. To promote the best accuracy and fastest process when listing your reunion, complete the Reunion Registration Form available on the Web site.

LOCATING A BUDDY

MilitaryUSA.com offers many services for veterans, including tips and techniques for locating current or former military members. *How To Locate Anyone Who Is or Has Been in the Military: Armed Forces Locator Guide* is a practical guide to help people locate service members. The publication can be purchased by contacting MIE Publishing, P.O. Box 17118, Spartanburg, SC 29301 or by faxing (864) 595-0813.

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Reunion Date

Reunion City Reunion State

Branch of Service

REUNION PLANNER'S INFORMATION

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Det 0900 Lahr: 5/13-17, Myrtle Beach, SC, George Johnson, (910) 455-3450, johngco4@coastalnet.com; **35th Mnt Supply Grp:** 5/18-21, New Orleans, Claude Clawson, (614) 577-0094, cclawson@webtv.net; **330th 331st FIS:** 5/23-27, Tucson, AZ, Burnell Hostetter, (717) 898-7132, burnell@lancnews.inf.net; **42nd Bomb Grp:** 5/24-27, Montgomery, AL, Frank Saler, (903) 868-1256, michar331@yahoo.com; **Wet Hens:** 6/21-24, Honolulu, Verna Morgan, (808) 623-6156, mmorgan@inix.com.

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Anyone who served on the oil tanker USS *Chiwawa* AO-68 during World War II, contact Jon Strupp at j_strupp@hotmail.com.

Anyone who served with the 699th Ord. Co. Hvy. Mtn. Tank at Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort Knox, Ky., or with the 564th Ord. Hvy. Mtn. Tank at Okinawa between April 1943 and Jan. 1946, contact Raymond W. Dutton, 165 Old Mill Way, Conyers, GA, 30094-3151 or e-mail ramadu@bellsouth.net.

Anyone who served in HQ Co., U.S. Army Garrison Toul Post in Toul, France, from 1960 to 1962, contact David R. Davies, 1205 Dunn Street #4, Portage, WI 53901 or call (608) 742-4682.

Anyone who served with the 2nd Inf. Div., contact

Bill Creech, Second (Indian Head) Division Association, P.O. Box 460, Buda, TX, 78610.

TAPS

Thomas Killeen, Dept. of Louisiana. Nat'l Constitution and Bylaws Cmte. Memb. 1995-1996 and various Department positions.
Cletus A. Lehne, Dept. of Illinois. Nat'l Memb. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1966-1967 and 1968-1969; Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Memb. 1968-1970; Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmsn. Memb. 1969-1970; Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Memb. 1969-1972 and 1980-1984; Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Region 5 Memb. 1985-1988; Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Memb. 1988-2000; and various Department positions.
Ethel M. Matuschka, Dept. of Wisconsin. Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1954-1961 and 1962-1965 and Nat'l Historian 1985-1986.
Thomas W. O'Connor, Dept. of Pennsylvania. Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb.

1958-1966, 1972-1973 and 1978-1981; Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1959-1962; Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1963-1970 and 1972-1973; Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Memb. 1969-1972 and 1981-1982; Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1971-1972; Nat'l Rehab Cmsn. Board Memb. 1974-1975; Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1976-1977; Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1982-2000; Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1999-2000; and various Department positions.
Gordon M. Ragsdale, Dept. of Virginia. Nat'l Pilgrimage Cmte. Memb. 1957-1959; Nat'l Counter-Subversive Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1960-1967; Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1974-1982; Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1988-2000; and Dept. Cmdr. 1968-1969.
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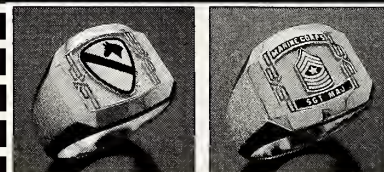


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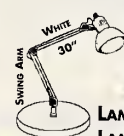
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Who's The Idiot?

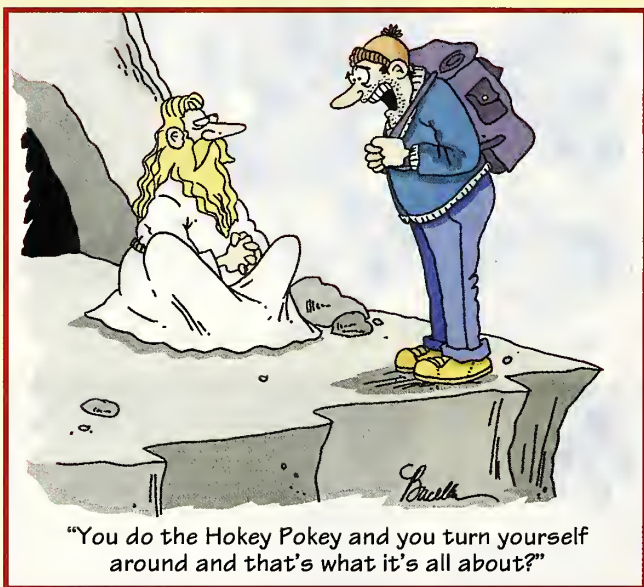
"My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart," a man frantically yelled into the phone. "Is this her first child?" the doctor asked. "No, you idiot!" the man shouted. "This is her husband!"

— Submitted by Arthur H. Scott, Mohave Valley, Ariz.

Don't Look Back

If you think your problems are behind you, chances are you're driving a school bus.

— Submitted by Mel Ostby, Plymouth, Minn.



Parting Shots jokes wanted

The American Legion Magazine welcomes anecdotes, jokes or submissions for "Parting Shots." Submissions should include the name, hometown

and telephone number of the person submitting the material for verification. (\$25 will be paid for submissions that are published.) Send submissions to:

Parting Shots Editor
The American Legion Magazine
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206



Just Plane Dumb

If at first you don't succeed, then skydiving is not for you.

— Submitted by Loren R. Barker, Howe, Okla.

Saddle But True

Horse sense is what a horse has that keeps it from betting on people.

— W.C. Fields

Thanks For The Tip

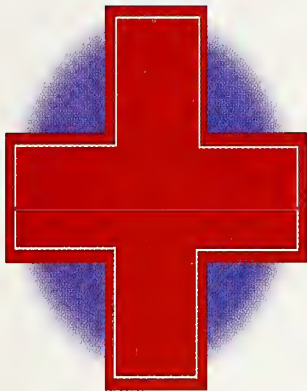
Pharmacist to customer: "Take these pills as often as you can get the cap off."

— Submitted by Alvin V. Sizer, Tucson, Ariz.



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